Cabinet Committee on Tax and Investment (CCTI) for making a budgetary provision of Rs. 300 crores towards export subsidy ;

(b) w . factors whit the Ministry is ..itributing for growth of exports in the post-GATT Scenario; and

(c) whether the cheap labour aviJlable in the country is a major factor of competitive advantage to the Indian exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In the post-GATT Scenario, sizeable increases in trade are ex pected to occur in the areas of clothing, agriculture, forestry and fishery products. Since India's existing and potential export com petitiveness lies in these areas, it is expected that India would get its due share in the overall] growth of exports in the post-GATT [scenario.

(c) Labour is only one among a host of other factors which deter mine the competitive advantage of the Indian economy.

Amendments in laws following GATT Replication

769. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : SHRIMATI MIRA DAS :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of laws and amending laws to be enacted as a follow up of GATT ratification; and

(b) whether the above laws be; ig framed have taken enough care about the farmers' interests and if s >, how it would be done generally and in terms of acquiring new varieties of seek by farmers at reasonable rates? I

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) To safeguard our interests und meet our obligations, amendments at viirious stages are likely mainly to the Customs Tariff Act (in respect of Anti-Dumping and Countervailing provisions); the Copyright Act; the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act; the Patents Act; the Industrial Design Act; and laws to deal with restrictive trade practices. Fresh legislation would need to be considered in the areas of geographical indications, lay-out designs of integrated circuits, undisclosed information, plant variety protection and safeguards.

The legislation on plant variety protection is in the process of being drafted and it would address issues of fanners' interests.

Stagnation in Tea product on

770. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRI RAHASPIHAR] BARIK:

Will the Minister of COM M1IRCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the stagnancy in tlie production ol *be* country

(b) the tea producing areas where si has been mostly there:

(c) the re.isons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to remove the stagnation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Production of tea in the country has been increasing steadily. Between 19^3 to 1993. there has been an increase of nearlv 30% in overall production level in the country with all major tea growing regions showing a steady increase.